

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

As filed, the application included claims 1-25. The Office Action rejected claims 1-15 and 17-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,032,241 to Venkatachary et al. ("Venkatachary"). Applicants respectfully traverse. Claim 16 has been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claims 1-10, 13, 17-21 and 23 have been amended. Claims 15 and 16 have been canceled. Claims 26 and 27 are new. Hence, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1-14 and 17-27 stand pending for examination.

Claims 1-15 and 17-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. In the interest of expeditious prosecution, however, independent claims 1, 13 and 17 have been amended to include elements similar to those recited by claim 16, which the Office Action indicated were directed toward allowable subject matter. Independent claims 1, 13 and 17, therefore, are believed to be allowable over Venkatachary. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue the unamended claims in this or another application.

In view of the Office Action's statement that claim 16 was found to be directed to allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 13 and 17, as amended, are patentable. Further, claims 2-12, 14 and 18-27 depend from claims 1, 13 and 17 and, therefore, are likewise patentable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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Amendment dated March 12, 2007
Reply to Office Action of December 12, 2006

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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